



# Education Watch

Enhancing Flexibility & Accountability ■ Leaving No Child Behind

U.S. House Education & the Workforce Committee ■ John Boehner, Chairman  
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<http://edworkforce.house.gov/edwatch>

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## President Bush Calls for Flexibility, Consolidation in Education

In his remarks yesterday at the Griegos Elementary School in Albuquerque, NM, President George W. Bush reiterated his strong belief in giving local school leaders the flexibility they need to reform their education systems.

“We know one size does not fit all when it comes to education,” Bush said. “I can assure you that the Albuquerque school district is different from the Rhode Island school districts, for example. And therefore, we need to have more flexibility when it comes to federal law. **So one of the cornerstones of the reform package is going to be to consolidate federal programs and entrust local people to make the right decisions on how to apply that money,**” the President continued.

The House version of the President’s education reform plan includes unprecedented new flexibility for every local school district in America, giving them the freedom to transfer up to 50 percent of their federal education dollars among an assortment of ESEA programs. It also allows up to 100 school districts to receive a virtual waiver from federal education rules in exchange for better results.

Parents want to know that education decisions are being made by people who know their children’s first names. That’s why flexibility and local control are pillars of the President’s education plan.

### Message of the Day

**President Bush has made it clear that flexibility, local control, and consolidation are key components of his education reform plan.**

- ❑ *To meet the higher expectations of the President’s plan, local school districts and states should have new freedom from burdensome federal rules and red tape.*
- ❑ *Funding increases should be targeted to students who need help the most -- not used to create a host of new programs.*
- ❑ *The President’s plan gives schools the flexibility to address educational needs that change annually.*

### DAILY EDUCATION FACTS

- The House-passed bill (H.R. 1) gives states and local schools additional flexibility to improve student performance by reducing red tape and consolidating duplicative federal programs.
- In order to focus funding on what works, H.R. 1 reduces the overall number of ESEA programs from 55 to 47; the Senate increases the overall number from 55 to 89 (*source: Congressional Research Service*).
- The Senate-passed bill gives state governments important relief from federal red tape, allowing 25 school districts and seven state governments to apply for greater flexibility in exchange for stronger accountability.

### QUOTE OF THE DAY

*“Good education starts in the living rooms of the citizens of this country. It starts with a mom or a dad saying, you turn off the TV and practice reading. It means, get rid of the tube and get into the books. That’s where it starts.”* **President George W. Bush, Albuquerque, NM, August 15, 2001**